

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----118067 081824Z /42

R 081724Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2912
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 18364

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC PARM SF FR
SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM: SUMMARY OF
FRENCH MFA JACOMET'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA OF
MAY 18

REF: STATE 122358

1. FRENCH MFA NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ADVISER
ANDRE JACOMET VISITED SOUTH AFRICA ON MAY 18-19 TO
DISCUSS SAG VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR MATTERS AND
SAG-GOF NUCLEAR COOPERATION. JACOMET PROVIDED THE
FOLLOWING SUMMARY TO EMBOFF ON MAY 24, TO JOSEPH NYE ON
MAY 29 AND A SIMILAR SUMMARY WAS TO HAVE BEEN PROVIDED
TO AMBASSADOR SMITH BY THE FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON
ABOUT MAY 24.

2. JACOMET SAID HE SPENT ONE DAY IN NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS
TALKING PRINCIPALLY TO SAG MFA SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE
AND DIRECTOR ROUX OF SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD.
THEIR FIRST MESSAGE WAS THAT THEY AND OTHERS WERE
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SHOCKED BY THE CURRENT TREATMENT BEING GIVEN SOUTH
AFRICA. SPECIFICALLY ON NUCLEAR ISSUES, THE SAG WOULD
HAVE NO PROBLEMS IN SIGNING THE NPT BUT WOULD CERTAINLY
WANT AN ADEQUATE QUID PRO QUO. THEY LISTED SEVEN ITEMS
FOR JACOMET:

A. US DELIVERY OF HEU (93 PERCENT, NOT SOMETHING

LESS) FOR THE SAFARI RESEARCH REACTOR. IF STUDIES
SHOWED THE REACTOR COULD FULLY FUNCTION ON LOWER
ENRICHMENT FUEL, THEN THEY COULD AGREE TO THAT.

B. US GUARANTEE OF SUPPLY OF LEU FOR THE KOEBERG
REACTOR.

C. AN ANSWER FROM THE US ON THE REPROCESSING OF
SPENT FUEL FROM THE SAFARI REACTOR. MATERIAL HAD BEEN
SENT 18 MONTHS AGO TO THE US AND, AS YET, NO US RESPONSE:
SAG WANTED THE REPROCESSED FUELS OR PROPER COMPENSATION.

D. AN ADEQUATE ANSWER ON THE SAFEGUARDS PROCEDURES
THAT WOULD BE USED ON AN ENRICHMENT FACILITY WHICH
WOULD PROTECT THE OWNER'S PROPRIETARY RIGHTS AND
COMMERCIALLY VALUABLE KNOW-HOW OF THE PROCESS (WHAT IS
PERIMETER CONTROL).

E. SAG WANTS THE USG TO USE ITS FULL INFLUENCE TO
HELP THE SAG REGAIN ITS SEAT ON THE IAEA GOVERNING
COUNCIL.

F. THE USG MUST AGREE TO NOT OPPOSE THE SHIPMENT
TO SOUTH AFRICA OF NON-SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THE LARGE

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 18364

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SOUTH AFRICAN ENRICHMENT PLANT (GUARANTEED IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE NPT ACCORDING TO THE SAG).

G. AGREEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL THAT THEY WOULD NOT PERMIT ESCALATION OF PRESSURES ON THE SAG IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. JACOMET SAID THAT HIS SAG HOSTS BELIEVED THAT THEIR REQUESTS DID NOT EXCEED THEIR FULLY JUSTIFIED RIGHTS. JACOMET TOLD HIS HOSTS THAT FRANCE REMAINED INTERESTED IN THE KOEBERG REACTOR CONTRACT, BUT THAT THE SAG SHOULD FIND SOME MEANS OF MEETING THE USG BASIC OBJECTIVES AS THE GOF WOULD NOT ACT CONTRARY TO USG POLICIES REGARDING NUCLEAR MATTERS WITH THE SAG. JACOMET SEES THE SAG AS SUSPICIOUS AND BITTER AT THE USG REQUESTS, PREPARED TO MEET REASONABLE US DEMANDS BUT QUESTIONS THE TIMING OF THE SAG ACTING NOW AND THE USG ACTING SOMETIME LATER. SAG IS ALSO LEERY OF WHAT FURTHER CONCESSIONS WILL BE PRESSED AFTER IT AGREES TO THE PRESENT DEMANDS AND BEFORE THE US CARRIES THROUGH WITH ITS AGREED ACTIONS. JACOMET FEELS THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SAG WILL BE DIFFICULT AS THE SAG BELIEVES THE USG DEARLY WANTS IT TO SIGN THE NPT AND THE GOF WANTS
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BADLY THE REACTOR BUSINESS.

4. JACOMET SAID THAT ON ABOUT MAY 25-26 BRAND FOURIE VISITED PARIS AND REMARKED TO THE GOF THAT THE JACOMET VISIT HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL AND OFFERED A MEANS FOR THE GOF AND THE SAG TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. POSSIBLY AFTER THE SMITH VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE A TRILATERAL MEETING.

5. JACOMET BELIEVES THE SEVEN SAG DEMANDS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ARE INITIAL SAG POSITIONS AND WERE PRESENTED TO HIM TO BE PASSED TO THE USG. HOW MUCH THE SAG CAN BE MOVED FROM THESE INITIAL POSITIONS WAS DIFFICULT

OPTIMISTIC.
HARTMAN

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